

number of English vessels on the coast, and to escape with all his troops except a depot of 200 men left, at Altona. We afterwards learned that he experienced no interruption on his passage, and that he, landed with his troops at Cornnna. I now knew to what to attribute the drowsiness which always overcame the Marquis de la Romana when he sat down to take a hand at whist. The fact was, he sat up all night making preparations for the escape which he, had long meditated, while to lull suspicion he showed himself every when* during the day as usual.¹

On the defection of the Spanish troops I received letters from Government requiring me to augment my vigilance, and to seek out those persons who might be supposed to have been in the confidence of the Marquis de la Romana. I was informed that English agents, dispersed through the Hanse Towns, were endeavoring to foment discord and dissatisfaction among the King of Holland's troops. These Manoeuvres were undertaken with the treasury of the Spaniards and the arrival of Daniean in London. Insubordination had already

¹ The Marquis of b<md<m<l<Try's .Vnrnttin'»/(ln' /'< tnitsnhtr HV/couiuuii.H the. following p;trl.i<*ul;irs rcl;iliv<^ {<> K.<>ni;u;i's defnt i(>n:-

" Whilst the naval and military reinforcements in the Mediterranean went <>x('rt'in^ themselves an effort- was made' in <!>' nort<li, with (uncomplete success, for n>ston». in this servit-e of his country <>no of (he a,hleH{ officer.H of which

officers, might they, as it was b<'lit've<! they would," from Spain a corps of 16,000 veteran troops, whom, under the Marquis de la Romana, he employed for a time upon the banks of the Vistula, and afterwards removed to the shores of the Great Belt. They were distributed at different points in that district when the standard of independence was raised, and one of the earliest measures of the supreme junta was to issue a proclamation calling upon them, in the name of their country, to return to its defence. This was necessarily consigned to the care of the British cruisers; and it was not given to them in vain. A scheme for its delivery, as well as for the removal of the desire to comply with its terms, was immediately devised in London; and the execution of it was committed to Vice-Admiral Keats, an officer well worthy of the trust. It succeeded to admiration; and 7000 men, with Romana at their head, were transferred from the ranks of the enemy at a moment of critical interest to those of the patriotic army." Shut up at Ruman in the Baltic the Spaniards for some time could obtain no information from their own distant country. The post-offices of Europe were in the hands of Napoleon - his spies were in the camp of Romana; but nevertheless a bold and skilful agent, a Catholic priest of Scotch extraction named Robertson, succeeded in getting ashore at Ruman in disguise, and in opening communications between the Spanish general and the British Admiral Keats. The combinations then resorted to by Romana to extricate his troops are entitled to much praise. Editor of 1826 edition.